

***INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE***  
***September 8 - 14, 2011***

1. [United States, Romania Sign Missile Defense Agreement](#) (09-13-2011)
  2. [Obama Says U.S. Is a Stronger Nation After 9/11 Attacks](#) (09-11-2011)
  3. [U.S. Treasury Department Fights Terrorism by Killing Its Funding](#) (09-11-2011)
  4. [President Obama's Op-Ed: The Partnership We Need](#) (09-09-2011)
  5. [Terrorism Will Not Diminish U.S. Values, Clinton Says](#) (09-09-2011)
- 

**1. [United States, Romania Sign Missile Defense Agreement](#) (09-13-2011)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed an agreement to deploy a limited missile defense system in Romania.

Washington — The United States and Romania signed an agreement September 13 for the placement of land-based missile defense interceptors at the Deveselu Air Base near Caracal beginning in 2015, the U.S. State Department said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi signed the agreement at the State Department in Washington. The agreement calls for basing a land-based SM-3 ballistic missile defense system in Romania as part of a larger initiative to protect NATO territories from ballistic missiles.

“The deployment to Romania is anticipated to occur in the 2015 timeframe as part of the second phase of the European Phased Adaptive Approach,” the State Department said in a [fact sheet](#) issued after the signing ceremony. “This agreement is an important step in our efforts to protect from the growing threat posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles of increasingly greater ranges, lethality and sophistication, and potentially armed with weapons of mass destruction.”

The missile defense site will include a radar deckhouse and associated Aegis command, control and communications site, the fact sheet said. Separately, the small facility will house a number of launch modules containing the SM-3 interceptors.

U.S. and Romanian military forces will cooperatively provide physical security for the 430-acre (175-hectare) interceptor facility, located entirely at the air base. The United States bears the full cost for the construction of the facility and for the deployment, operations and maintenance of its ballistic missile defense system, the fact sheet said.

“An estimated 150 to 200 military, government civilians, and support contractors will be required to operate the U.S. facility at the site,” the fact sheet said. “SM-3 interceptors based in Romania will not be used for flight tests, and will be launched only in defense against an actual attack.”

The fact sheet said the SM-3 missile interceptors are for defensive purposes and have no offensive capability. “They carry no explosive warheads of any type, and rely on their kinetic energy to collide with and destroy incoming enemy ballistic missile warheads,” the State Department fact sheet said.

The State Department said the interceptor site in Romania will provide a defensive capability to protect Europe and the United States against ballistic missiles launched from the Middle East.

The agreement must be ratified by the Romanian Parliament before work to develop the site can begin, the fact sheet said. The United States and Romania jointly selected the Deveselu Air Base to host the interceptor system in May.

President Obama announced the U.S. decision to adopt a new approach to ballistic missile defense in Europe on September 17, 2009. At the time, Obama said that “to put it simply, our new missile defense architecture in Europe will provide stronger, smarter and swifter defenses of American forces and America’s allies.”

The system is more comprehensive than a similar program developed under the administration of former President George W. Bush, Obama said.

“It deploys capabilities that are proven and cost-effective; and it sustains and builds upon our commitment to protect the U.S. homeland against long-range ballistic missile threats; and it ensures and enhances the protection of all our NATO allies,” Obama said.

#### [Clinton, Romanian Foreign Minister on Missile Defense Agreement](#)

---

## **2. Obama Says U.S. Is a Stronger Nation After 9/11 Attacks (09-11-2011)**

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama led Americans in marking the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks on New York and Washington, saying the perpetrators had failed to undermine the unity, character and values of the United States, and that Americans “refuse to live in fear.”

Obama used his weekly address from the White House September 10 to tell Americans that a decade after the attacks, their country is stronger and that al-Qaida, which carried out the attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, “is on the path to defeat.”

“We’ve shown that America doesn’t hunker down and hide behind walls of mistrust. We’ve forged new partnerships with nations around the world to meet the global challenges that no nation can face alone. And across the Middle East and North Africa, a new generation of citizens is showing that the future belongs to those that want to build, not destroy,” the president said.

On September 11, the president and first lady Michelle Obama were joined by former President George W. Bush and Laura Bush, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a ceremony on the site of the World Trade Center, where family members and friends of those who were killed in the attacks read out the names of the victims and paid homage to their loved ones.

The president used to the occasion [to read a passage](#) from Psalm 46 from Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

“We will not fear, even though the earth be removed, though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. Though its waters roar and be troubled, and the mountains shake with its swelling,” Obama said.

Former President Bush read from a letter President Abraham Lincoln wrote in 1864 to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, who had lost five sons in the American Civil War:

“I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save,” Bush read to the audience. “I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.”

Mayor Bloomberg described the day of the attacks as a time when “the morning turned into the blackest of nights.”

“Since then, we’ve lived in sunshine and in shadow,” he said. “And although we can never un-see what happened here, we can also see that children who lost their parents have grown into young adults, grandchildren have been born, and good works in public service have taken root to honor those we loved and lost.”

Following the memorial service in New York, the president attended a wreath-laying ceremony near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where passengers that were hijacked on Flight 93 and diverted toward Washington rose up against their captors and forced the plane to crash in a rural field rather than reach its intended target.

Vice President Biden [spoke at the site of the crash September 10](#) with former President Bush and former President Bill Clinton where a memorial was dedicated to the passengers.

“None of them asked for what happened. They didn’t ... board that plane to fight a war,” Biden said. “But when they heard the news, when they found out what happened in New York, they knew that they were going through ... something more than a hijacking. They knew it was the opening shot in a new war.”

The vice president quoted poet Maya Angelou, saying that despite the wrenching pain of history, it cannot be un-lived, but “if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”

“We are not here to unlive history. We are here to honor those whose courage made history and is going to inspire generations of Americans to come,” he said.

“Know with certitude that there is not a single, solitary tragedy that America cannot overcome. There is not a single moment of hardship that cannot be transformed into one of national strength. The seeds of doubt, planted by those who wish to harm us, will instead grow into flowering meadows like this one where we stand in today,” he said.

Speaking at the Pentagon on September 11 where American service members and passengers on Flight 77 died when their plane slammed into the building, Biden said al-Qaida and other extremists still fail to appreciate “the true source of American power,” which is that “as Americans we draw our strength from the rich tapestry of the American people.”

The perpetrators “never imagined that the 3,000 people who lost their lives that day would inspire 3 million to put on the uniform, and harden the resolve of 300 million Americans,” he said.

Biden said the United States is marking the anniversary of the attacks with memorials to honor, to remember and to heal “because that’s what this is ultimately about.”

He said those who died at the Pentagon were already heroes to their loved ones before the attack, and told the assembled family members and friends that “my prayer for you is that 10 years later when you think of them ... that it brings a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eyes.”

---

### **3. U.S. Treasury Department Fights Terrorism by Killing Its Funding (09-11-2011)**

Washington — In the decade since the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, the United States has made enormous progress in countering extremists by cutting off their sources of financial support.

On September 8, the U.S. Treasury Department welcomed current and former senior U.S. counterterrorism officials, national security experts and private sector leaders to discuss the accomplishments of the United States and the international community in combating the financing of terrorism and to examine how best to adapt and refocus efforts in the coming years.

The conference, “Ten Years Later: Progress and Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing Since 9/11,” provided a forum to discuss the current conditions of terrorist financing and stimulated discussions about innovative responses to combating the threat of terrorism.”

In opening the conference, [Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner said](#) the [department's strategy](#) in combating the financing of terrorism has meant “donors, financial institutions, and facilitators across the world are no longer free to fund and facilitate terrorism with impunity. The pool of money for terrorism is shrinking, and it has grown harder and harder to hide and move funds.” Today, he added, “al-Qaida struggles to secure steady financing. It can no longer rely on a thick Rolodex and a simple bank transfer.”

“As we sharpen our efforts to combat new sources of terrorist funding, we will continue efforts to stay ahead of new ways terrorists store and move money,” said [Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen](#). These include looking at emerging trends in how terrorists raise money, exploit new technologies and rely on informal methods of moving money.

The U.S. Treasury Department is the only finance ministry in the world with an office of terrorism and financial intelligence, according to a summary of the forum posted to the department's website September 9. This dedicated unit continues to play a leading role within the United States government and the international community to deprive terrorists and would-be terrorists of their financial support.

"What started as an analytic niche a decade ago has evolved into a full-blown community of financial intelligence experts today, and whose work directly supports the president's national security agenda," John Brennan, assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism, said in a keynote address to the forum.

Also attending were National Counterterrorism Center Director Matt Olsen, State Department Counterterrorism Coordinator Daniel Benjamin, U.N. Counterterrorism Executive Directorate Director Mike Smith and U.N. Coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Implementation Monitoring Team Richard Barrett, as well as former U.S. officials from the Bush administration, including former Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey and former Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Frances Townsend.

---

#### **4. President Obama's Op-Ed: The Partnership We Need (09-09-2011)**

The following op-ed from President Obama was released to the international press on September 7. There are no republication restrictions.

On this 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we remember that 9/11 was not only an attack on the United States, it was an attack on the world and on the humanity and hopes that we share.

We remember that among the nearly 3,000 innocent people lost that day were hundreds of citizens from more than 90 nations. They were men and women, young and old, of many races and faiths. On this solemn anniversary we join with their families and nations in honoring their memory.

We remember with gratitude how ten years ago the world came together as one. Around the globe, entire cities came to a standstill for moments of silence. People offered their prayers in churches, mosques, synagogues and other places of worship. And those of us in the United States will never forget how people in every corner of the world stood with us in solidarity in candlelight vigils and among the seas of flowers placed at our embassies.

We remember that in the weeks after 9/11, we acted as an international community. As part of a broad coalition, we drove al Qaeda from its training camps in Afghanistan, toppled the Taliban, and gave the Afghan people a chance to live free from terror. However, the years that followed were difficult and the spirit of global partnership we felt after 9/11 frayed.

As President, I've worked to renew the global cooperation we need to meet the full breadth of global challenges that we face. Through a new era of engagement, we've forged partnerships with nations and peoples based on mutual interest and mutual respect.

As an international community, we have shown that terrorists are no match for the strength and resilience of our citizens. I've made it clear that the United States is not and never will be at war

with Islam. Rather, with allies and partners we are united against al Qaeda, which has attacked dozens of countries and killed tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children — the vast majority of them Muslims. This week, we remember all the victims of al Qaeda and the courage and resilience with which their families and fellow citizens have persevered, from the Middle East to Europe, from Africa to Asia.

Working together, we have disrupted al Qaeda plots, eliminated Osama bin Laden and much of his leadership, and put al Qaeda on the path to defeat. Meanwhile, people across the Middle East and North Africa are showing that the surest path to justice and dignity is the moral force of nonviolence, not mindless terrorism and violence. It is clear that violent extremists are being left behind and that the future belongs to those who want to build, not destroy.

To nations and people seeking a future of peace and prosperity — you have a partner in the United States. For even as we confront economic challenges at home, the United States will continue to play a unique leadership role in the world. As we remove the rest of our troops from Iraq and transfer responsibility in Afghanistan, we will support Iraqis and Afghans in their efforts to deliver security and opportunity for their people. In the Arab world and beyond, we will stand up for the dignity and universal rights of all human beings.

Around the world, we will continue the hard work of pursuing peace, promoting the development that lifts people from poverty, and advancing the food security, health and good governance that unleashes the potential of citizens and societies.

At the same time, we have recommitted ourselves to living our values at home. As a nation of immigrants, the United States welcomes people from every country and culture. These newest Americans — like all the innocent victims we lost ten years ago — remind us that despite any differences of race or ethnicity, background or belief, we are all bound together by the common hope that we can make the world a better place for this and future generations. That must be the legacy of those we have lost.

Those who attacked us on 9/11 wanted to drive a wedge between the United States and the world. They failed. On this 10th anniversary, we are united with our friends and partners in remembering all those we have lost in this struggle. In their memory, we reaffirm the spirit of partnership and mutual respect that we need to realize a world where all people live in dignity, freedom and peace.

---

## **5. Terrorism Will Not Diminish U.S. Values, Clinton Says (09-09-2011)**

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — Ahead of the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against New York and Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States will not allow the threat of terrorism to harm its traditions or values. She also said nations that undergo democratic transitions will be better able to stand up to violent extremism.

Speaking at John Jay College in New York September 9, Clinton said “we are determined not to let the specter of terrorism darken the national character that has always been America’s greatest asset.”



“The United States has thrived as an open society, a principled nation, and a global leader. And we cannot and will not live in fear, sacrifice our values, or pull back from the world,” nor close borders to overseas visitors, workers and students, she said.

The Obama administration is continuing to target the al-Qaida network, which carried out the attacks, by going after its leaders, disrupting its operations and attacking its safe havens, financial sources and ideology.

But Clinton said the United States is focused not only on fighting against al-Qaida, but also on fighting for U.S. values such as tolerance, equality, opportunity, universal rights and the rule of law. “That’s a fight we can be confident of and a mission we can be proud of,” she said.

She noted that, across the Middle East and North Africa, people are peacefully charting a future of greater freedom and opportunity that is a rebuke to al-Qaida and its hateful ideology, but Clinton warned that democratic transitions still risk being hijacked by new autocrats, or derailed by sectarian conflicts.

“How this moment plays out, and what happens in these transitions, will have profound consequences for our long-term struggle against violent extremism,” Clinton said.

“We believe that democracies are better equipped than autocracies to stand up against terrorism for the long term. They offer constructive outlets for political grievances, they create opportunities for upward mobility and prosperity that are clear alternatives to violent extremism, and they tend to have, over time, more effective governing institutions,” she said.

It is in the U.S. interest to continue its direct support for the development of strong democracies in the region, as well as for Americans to “live up to our own best values and traditions,” she said. “The people of these nations in transition are looking at us with fresh eyes. And we need to make sure they see us as a source of opportunity and hope, as a partner, not an adversary.”

## GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

The secretary also announced that the United States and Turkey will be the founding co-chairs of a new Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) where countries can cooperate and share best practices in the struggle against violent extremists.

She said it would be the first dedicated international venue where key counterterrorism (CT) policymakers and practitioners from around the world will be able to convene regularly to share experiences, expertise, strategies, capacity needs and capacity-building programs.

According to a September 9 fact sheet released by the State Department, the GTCF will be officially launched in New York later in September on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly meetings and will “focus on identifying critical civilian CT needs, mobilizing the necessary expertise and resources to address these issues and build global political will.”

Initial working groups will focus on the criminal justice sector and the rule of law, ways to counter violent extremism, and CT capacity building for the African regions of Sahel and the Horn of Africa, as well as for Southeast Asia.

Speaking at a United Nations commemoration of the September 11th attacks in New York September 9, [U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Susan Rice](#) said the United States and its

*September 14, 2011*

partners around the world have made great strides in the shared struggle against terrorism over the past 10 years.

“We’ve made clear the stark difference between our shared values of freedom, peace, prosperity and partnership, and the bitter and bankrupt vision” of al-Qaida, she said.

The United States will continue to work with countries around the world to “disrupt, dismantle, and defeat” al-Qaida and prevent more attacks, she said.

“We must all remain vigilant. But we must also remain confident in our shared ability to overcome such a hateful ideology,” Rice said.

[Secretary Clinton on U.S. Counterterrorism Strategy](#)

---